**NAME: DATE:**

WHAT TYPES OF ORGANISMS MAKE UP OUR ECOSYSTEMS?

Is there only one type of organism within ecosystems? Do some organisms rely on other organisms for life? Do some organisms naturally produce their own food, while others eat and capture their food? How can we classify all these different organisms? One way to organize all these different types of organisms is by classifying them into three categories: **Producers, Consumers, and Decomposers**.

Activity Goals:

* Students will compare and contrast these three classifications of organisms.
* Students will be assigned to groups and become experts in a certain group of organism.
* Once students have learned about their particular group, they will report their findings to their classmates by developing responses to the questions below.

Directions:

Once you are in your respective groups, pertain to the Biology Text (sections 7.3-7.4) to receive information about your particular group of organism. Creatively construct a three sided poster board about your particular group of organism by addressing the questions below. After completion we will present our findings to the class. (See attached scoring rubric for grading criteria)

1. What are these organisms?
2. What is their role within the ecosystem?
3. What are some examples of these organisms?
4. How do they obtain their food?
5. Are these organisms classified into further categories of organisms?
6. Why are these organisms important to other life in an ecosystem?
7. In what was do these organisms help provide life in an ecosystem?